

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on February 7, 2007  
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Larry Jent (D)  
Sen. Rick Laible (R)  
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)  
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)  
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Dave Bohyer, Legislative Branch  
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted:	SB 96, 2/2/2007; SB 91, 2/2/2007; SB 333, 2/2/2007; SB 317, 2/2/2007; SB 340, 2/2/2007
Executive Action:	SB 219

00:00:04

**HEARING ON SB 96**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:45 **SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS (D), SD 46**, opened the hearing on **SB 96**, Generally revise initiative and referendum process.

**EXHIBIT(sts27a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:56 The Honorable Mike McGrath, Attorney General

**EXHIBIT(sts27a02)**

00:18:38 The Honorable Brad Johnson, Secretary of State

00:20:46 John Motl, Common Cause of Montana

00:23:52 Terry Minow, MEA-MFT

00:25:07 Joy Bruck, AARP Montana

**EXHIBIT(sts27a03)**

**EXHIBIT(sts27a04)**

00:26:46 Rhonda Wiggers, Invironomics

00:30:24 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association

00:31:13 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

**EXHIBIT(sts27a05)**

00:34:23 Linda Gryczan, League of Women Voters

00:35:14 Eric Stern, Office of The Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer

00:36:16 Derf Johnson, MontPERG

00:37:21 Mark Aagenus, Montana Trout Unlimited

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:38:15 Carole Mackin

**EXHIBIT**(sts27a06)

00:43:38 Travis Butcher

00:50:35 William Biernat representing Becky Stockton

**EXHIBIT**(sts27a07)

00:53:41 Mike Fellows, President, Montana Libertarian Party

**Informational Testimony:**

00:54:53 Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk and  
Recorders

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:56:29 Sen. Jim Shockley to Attorney General Mike McGrath

01:00:08 Sen. Larry Jent to Attorney General Mike McGrath

01:02:11 Sen. Rick Laible to Attorney General Mike McGrath

01:04:56 Sen. Joe Balyeat to Attorney General Mike McGrath

01:07:22 Sen. Balyeat to Mr. Butcher

01:09:52 Sen. Essmann to Mr. Motl, Common Cause of Montana

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:12:47 Sen. Williams

**HEARING ON SB 91**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:16:22 **SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS (D), SD 46**, opened the hearing on  
**SB 91**, Regulate constituent accounts.

**EXHIBIT**(sts27a08)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:21:20 John Motl, Common Cause of Montana

01:25:57 Pam Bucy, Attorney General's Office, Department of Justice (DOJ)

01:26:46 Eric Stern, Governor's Office

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

01:27:22 Linda Gryczan, League of Women Voters

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:29:26 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Williams

01:30:23 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mr. Motl, Common Cause of Montana

01:30:52 Sen. Steve Gallus to Mr. Unsworth, Commissioner of Political Practices

01:32:29 Sen. Gallus to Ms. Bucy, DOJ

01:34:47 Sen. Gallus to Sen. Williams

01:37:05 Sen. Laible to Sen. Williams

01:38:10 Sen. Essmann to Mr. Motl, Common Cause of Montana

01:40:37 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Gallus

01:45:46 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mr. Unsworth, Commissioner of Political Practices

01:46:49 Sen. Joe Tropila

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:48:05 Sen. Williams

**HEARING ON SB 333**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:49:39 **SEN. CAROL JUNEAU (D), SD 8**, opened the hearing on **SB 333**, Alternative sites for absentee voting in person.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:56:09 Representative Brannon Augare, HD 16

01:57:16 Joy Bruck, AARP Montana

**EXHIBIT (sts27a09)**

01:59:32 Beth Brenneman, Montana Advocacy Program (MAP)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:01:35 Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk and  
Recorders

02:08:19 Mark Simonich, Secretary of State's Office

02:12:04 Debbie Martin, Cascade County Election Administrator

**Informational Testimony:**

02:14:45 Sarah Bucy, League of Women Voters

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:15:51 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Juneau

02:19:13 Sen. Laible to Mr. Simonich, Secretary of State's  
Office

02:21:05 Sen. Essmann to Mr. Throssell, Montana Association of  
Clerk and Recorders

02:22:12 Sen. Squires

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:23:33 Sen. Juneau

**HEARING ON SB 317**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:26:03 **SEN. DAVE LEWIS (R), SD 42**, opened the hearing on **SB 317**, Restrict land trust merger of title.

**EXHIBIT**(sts27a10)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:30:17 Sen. Aubyn Curtiss, SD 1

02:32:38 Glenn Marx, Executive Director, Montana Association of Land Trusts

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

02:33:38 Jeff Brandt, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

**EXHIBIT**(sts27a11)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:35:15 Sen. Lewis

**HEARING ON SB 340**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:35:25 **SEN. KIM GILLAN (D), SD 24**, opened the hearing on **SB 340**, Authorize Governor to withdraw proposed rules.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:37:49 Tom Ebzery, Western Environmental Trade Association

02:43:51 Bud Clinch, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

02:51:03 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association

02:59:40 Haley Beaudry, Columbia Falls Aluminum

02:69:53 Todd O'Hair, Rio Tinto

02:80:01 Jon Binnion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

02:91:17 Gail Ambercrombie, Montana Contractors Association

03:02:69 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association

00:12:03 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association

00:12:42 Gary Forrester, Fidelity Exploration

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:13:10 Eric Stern, Governor's Office

**Informational Testimony:** None.

00:14:37 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center  
(MEIC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None.

00:16:41 Sen. Laslovich to Mr. Ebzery

00:20:16 Sen. Laible to Mr. Stern, Governor's Office

00:23:58 Sen. Shockley

00:24:14 Sen. Jent to Mr. Stern, Governor's Office

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:55 Sen. Gillan

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 219**

00:31:34 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. GALLUS moved to RECONSIDER THE  
MOTION on SB 219. Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote  
with SEN. BALYEAT, SEN. ESSMANN, SEN. LAIBLE, and SEN.  
LEWIS voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6:40 P.M.

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SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

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LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

CS/lo

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sts27aad.pdf](#))**